

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02923 050041Z

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-04 SAL-01 EB-07 COME-00 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3423

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS MX

SUBJECT: GOM FISHING LICENSES FOR US VESSELS

1. FISHATT MET ON MARCH 2 AND 3 WITH PEDRO MERCADO, SECOND TIME IN COMPANY OF SEAN MARTIN, OWNER OF BAIT BOAT FINBACK. MERCADO IS OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY TO APPROVE LICENSING OF U.S. VESSELS FOR FISHING IN MEXICAN WATERS. MERCADO TOLD US THAT MEXICO IS ABIDING BY 1973 UNDERSTANDING WHICH, IN THEIR OPINION, REQUIRES THAT VESSELS DESIRING LICENSES SHOULD APPEAR ON LIST OF 151 VESSELS WHICH WERE LICENSED IN 1972. HE SAID THAT SOME VESSELS WHICH WERE NOT ON LIST HAD BEEN ISSUED LICENSES FIRST OF THIS YEAR BY MISTAKE, BUT THAT THEIR LICENSES WOULD NOT BE RENEWED UNTIL THEY GOT ON THE LIST.

2. MERCADO SAID THAT IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF UNDERSTANDING THAT IF A NEW VESSEL WANTED TO GET ON LIST IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AS SUBSTITUTION FOR ONE OF ORIGINAL VESSELS THAT WAS BEING REMOVED FROM LIST AND MUST BE OF APPROX SAME TONNAGE. THIS, HE SAID, WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, WHICH WAS FORMED FOR THIS EXPRESS PURPOSE, AND WHICH IS HEADED BY ANTHONY CHIAPPE.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02923 050041Z

AUTHORITY TO APPROVE SUCH SUBSTITUTIONS HAD FORMERLY

BEEN GIVEN TO AMIN ZARUR WHEN HE WAS CHIEF OF THE FISHERIES OFFICE IN SAN DIEGO. NOW THAT ZARUR IS GONE, AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THESE SUBSTITUTIONS IS IN MEXICO CITY AND REQUESTS FOR SUBSTITUTIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY TO PEDRO MERCADO.

3. MERCADO SAID THAT GOM WOULD RECOGNIZE ONLY TWO AUTHORITIES FOR REQUESTING THAT BOAT NOT ON THE LIST BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ONE PREVIOUSLY ON THE LIST. THOSE TWO ARE THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION OR THE FISHERIES ATTACHE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION. IN THE CASE OF MR. MARTIN'S BOAT, THE FINBACK, THE FISHATT PREPARED A LETTER REQUESTING THAT IT BE PLACED ON THE LIST AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LONE WOLF, WHICH SANK. MERCADO SAID IT WOULD BE APPROVED IMMEDIATELY.

4. MERCADO SAID THAT BOATS ON THE LIST SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN SECURING LICENSES. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY BOAT APPLYING WHICH IS OF LARGER TONNAGE THAN THE LARGEST BOAT ON THE ORIGINAL LIST COULD NOT POSSIBLY GET APPROVAL.

5. APPARENTLY THERE ARE ENOUGH BOATS FROM THE ORIGINAL LIST WHICH ARE NO LONGER IN THE FISHERY TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE BOATS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY HAVING DIFFICULTIES SECURING LICENSES, PROVIDED THE PROPER PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED. WE FEEL THAT THE ASSOCIATION UNDER MR. CHIAPPE HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWING THESE PROCEDURES. IF THE ASSOCIATION WILL COMMUNICATE TO THE FISHATT THE NAMES AND TONNAGES OF THE VESSELS DESIRING TO GET ON THE LIST AND THE NAMES AND TONNAGES OF THE VESSELS THEY ARE BEING SUBSTITUTED FOR, THE FISHATT WILL COMMUNICATE THIS TO GOM.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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